

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 1, 12, 17, 18, 30, and 34 are currently amended. Claims 3-7, 14-16, and 36-38 remain withdrawn. Claims 19-29 remain cancelled.

Thus, claims 1-18 and 30-42 are pending in the application and, of those claims, claims 3-7, 14-16, and 36-38 remain withdrawn. A detailed listing of all claims that are in the application, is presented, with appropriately defined status identifiers.

Missing PTO-892 Form:

Applicant notes that the Office Action was missing a PTO-892 Form that should have been included to cite Sato et al. (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0135937), which was referenced in the text of the Office Action. Thus, Applicant requests that a PTO-892 Form be issued to cite Sato et al. (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0135937).

Specification:

The specification has been amended to insert application numbers for applications referenced in the specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1, 2, 8-13, 17, 18, 30-35, and 39-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0135937) (hereinafter Sato).

Applicant notes that the rejection was made under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Applicant further notes that the filing date of U.S. Provisional App. Ser. No. 60/424,583 to which the present application claims priority is November 7, 2002, which is less than one year after the publication date of September 26, 2002, of the Sato reference. Thus, applicant reserves the right to show that

the claims of the present application are fully supported by the Provisional Application, so as to obtain an effective filing date that is the filing date of the Provisional Application.

With regard to claims 1, 2, 8-13, 17, 18, 30-35, and 39-42, as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a read/write head for a disk drive, the read/write head suitable for recording data in adjacent magnetic recording media, the adjacent magnetic recording media including a first layer for recording data and a second layer that is a soft underlayer (SUL) to return magnetic flux to the read/write head, the read/write head comprising:

“a substrate;

a trailing edge with respect to the adjacent magnetic recording media in rotation;

a write element comprising a write pole tip, formed adjacent the substrate, the write element configured to record data in the adjacent magnetic recording media;

a read element comprising a magnetoresistive sensor formed adjacent the write element, on an opposite side of the write element from the substrate; and

a shield located between the write element and the magnetoresistive sensor;

wherein a distance between the write pole tip and the substrate is less than a distance between the shield and the substrate; and

wherein **the magnetoresistive sensor is located between the write pole tip and the trailing edge** of the read/write head.” (Emphasis Added).

Thus, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that **the magnetoresistive sensor is located between the write pole tip and the trailing edge** of the read/write head. Support for such an amendment to independent claim 1 is found in Applicants’ figures 2 and 3, and in Applicants’ specification at page 14, lines 19-23, and at page 16, lines 8-12.

In particular, Applicants' FIG. 2 is as follows:

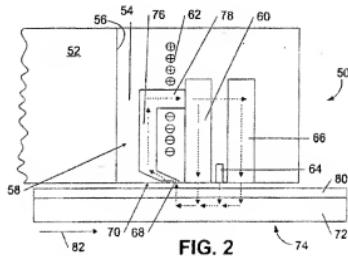


FIG. 2

Applicants' specification at page 14, lines 19-23, refers to Figure 2 and states the following:

"The adjacent media 74 is caused by the disk drive system to move past the head 50 in a direction shown by the arrow 82 in Figure 2. This causes the media 74 to move first by the write pole tip 68 before passing by the read element including the magnetoresistive sensor 64. Thus, the sensor 64 is closer than the write pole tip 68 to the downstream or trailing edge of the head 50 on the slider." (Applicants' Specification; page 14, lines 19-23) (Emphasis Added).

Applicants' FIG. 3 is as follows:

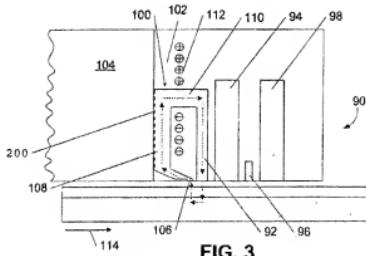


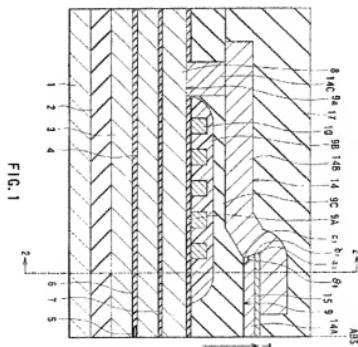
FIG. 3

Applicants' specification at page 16, lines 8-12, refers to Figure 3 and states the following:

"The adjacent media is caused by the disk drive system to move past the head 90 in a direction shown by the arrow 114 in Figure 3. This causes the media to move first by the write pole tip 106 before passing by the read element including the magnetoresistive sensor 96. Thus, the sensor 96 is closer than the write pole tip 106 to the downstream or trailing edge of the head 90 on the slider." (Applicants' Specification; page 16, lines 8-12) (Emphasis Added).

Sato neither discloses nor suggests a read/write head as claimed in the present independent claim 1. The Office Action points to Figs. 1-30 of the Sato reference as disclosing a read/write head with a magnetoresistive sensor 5 and a write pole tip 14A. (Office Action; page 2). However, in the head of Sato, the magnetoresistive element 5 is not located between the pole portion layer 14A and the trailing edge of the head. (Sato; FIG. 1, references 5, 14A, and arrow labeled T).

FIG. 1 of the Sato reference, rotated clockwise, is as follows:



Sato explains in paragraph [0071] that the arrow indicated by symbol T in FIG. 1 of Sato shows the traveling direction of a recording medium. (Sato; FIG. 1; paragraph [0071]). Thus, in Sato, a recording medium is caused to move past the head in a direction shown by the arrow T in figure 1. This causes the recording medium in Sato to move first by the magnetoresistive element 5 before passing by the pole portion layer 14A. (Sato; FIG. 1, references 5, 14A, and arrow T). Accordingly, in the head of Sato, the pole portion layer 14A is closer than the magnetoresistive element 5 to the downstream or trailing edge of the head. (Sato; FIG. 1, references 5, 14A, and arrow T). Therefore, in the head of Sato, the magnetoresistive element 5 is not located between the pole portion layer 14A and the trailing edge of the head. (Sato; FIG. 1, references 5, 14A, and arrow T).

Thus, independent claim 1, as amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Sato reference and, hence, is believed to be allowable. Because they depend from independent claim 1, dependent claims 2, 8-11, 13, 17-18, 41, and 42 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to recite that “the read element is located between the write pole and the trailing edge of the read/write head.” (Emphasis Added). Therefore, independent claim 12 is believed to be allowable for similar reasons as discussed above with regard to independent claim 1.

Independent claim 30 has been amended to recite that “the magnetoresistive sensor is located between the write pole tip and the trailing edge of the read/write head.” (Emphasis Added). Therefore, independent claim 30 is believed to be allowable for similar reasons as discussed above with regard to independent claim 1. Because they depend from independent claim 30, dependent claims 31-33, 35, 39, and 40 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 30 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 34 has been amended to recite that “the magnetoresistive sensor is located between the write pole and the trailing edge of the read/write head.” (Emphasis Added).

Therefore, independent claim 34 is believed to be allowable for similar reasons as discussed above with regard to independent claim 1.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 9, 2008

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